

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 192033Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6209

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 3304

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1 DECLASS INDETERMINABLE

TAGS: PFOR ES HO

SUBJ: HONDURAS-SALVADOR DISPUTE

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3412 AND (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3476

1. WE NOTED IN REFERENCE A THAT FONMIN BATRES HAD LEARNED THAT DISSIDENT HONDURAN POLITICAL PARTIES WERE PLANNING TO DISCREDIT NEW ROUND OF TALKS WITH SALVADOR BY RE COURSE TO "OLD LINE" THAT DE FACTO GOH LACKED CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO RATIFY ANY NEW BORDER ARRANGEMENT. REFTEL B RECORTS FIRST ROUND OF SUCH PROPAGANDA. BATRES ALSO " EXPRESSED APPREHENSION THAT THIS TYPE OF PROPAGANDA MIGHT NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE SALVADORAN NEGOTIATORS BY GIVING THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS NO

NATIONAL BACKING FOR GOH ON THIS ISSUE."

2. THIS "OLD LINE" OF THE DISSIDENT HONDURAN OPPOSITION PARTIES HAS LONG BEEN WELL KNOWN TO SALVADORAN OFFICIALS. I RECALL A CONVERSATION WHICH AMBASSADOR CAMPBELL AND I HAD WITH FOMIN BORGONOVO IN JUNE 1974 WHEN HE INTRODUCED THIS SUBJECT AND GAVE US A COPY OF AN EDITORIAL WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE HONDURAN

NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA ON JUNE 13, ON BEHALF OF THE LIBERAL AND NACIONAL PARTIES. THIS EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT THE PERMANENT SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM WITH EL SALVADOR "IS NOT THE COMPETENCE OF A DE FACTO REGIME BUT EXCLUSIVELY THAT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL

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GOVERNMENT." BORGONOVO HASTENED TO EXPLAIN THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE

GOES WAS
INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING THE FOREGOING ARGUMENT OR ANY OTHER
PRETEXT FOR EVADING A JUST SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTE
WITH HONDURAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ON THE CONTRARY, HE ASSURED
US AT THAT TIME, THE GOES LEADERSHIP WAS EARNESTLY INTERESTED IN
ACHIEVING A SOLUTION; AND HE WOULD PRESS AHEAD TOWARD THIS
OBJECTIVE IN THE COMING WEEKS. THE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THEN
HAVE TENDED TO BEAR HIM OUT. HE LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE NEGOTIATION OF A SETTLEMENT IS THE JOINT BUSINESS OF THE
GOES AND GOH; BUT THAT THE RATIFICATION OF ANY NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT IS THE EXCLUSIVE CONCERN OF EACH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS
AND HE HAD NO INTENTION OF REQUESTIONING THE COMPETENCE OF THE
LOPEZ GOVERNMENT EITHER TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT OR TO RATIFY IT.

3. IF IT WOULD BE DEEMED USEFUL BY EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA AS A
MEANS OF EASING BATRES'S APPREHENSIONS ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT,
WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTITNS TO BATRES BEING INFORMED OF THE
FOREGOING AS EVIDENCE OF GOES GOOD FAITH IN THE CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS.

MOSKOWITZ

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NNN

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